5/ (Amended) The method of claim 1, in which, when the flag is in the non-ratified state, delivery without debit is inhibited if the machine detects that delivery took place during the preceding use of the card.

6/ (Amended) The method of claim 1, in which card debiting and putting the flag into the non-ratified state are performed in indivisible manner.

7/ (Amended) The method of claim 1, in which at least a portion of the information modifying the state of the card, in particular commands enabling the flag to be put into the ratified state, is previously processed by cryptographic means implemented both in the card and in the machine.

8/ (Amended) The method according to claim 1, in which at least a portion of the information relating to the state of the card, in particular the state of the flag and confirmation that the debit has taken into account, is previously processed by cryptographic means implemented both in the card and in the machine.

9/ (Amended) The method of claim 1, in which the goods or service is delivered in deferred manner after a given time delay.

12/ (Amended)   The method of claim 1, in which the information interchanged between the machine and the card is enciphered in such a manner as to avoid revealing the moment at which the machine instructs the card to put the flag into the ratified state, or the moment at which the card performs that instruction.

13/ (Amended)   The method of claim 1, including, in the machine, counting the number of occasions on which it reads a flag in the non-ratified state.

14/ (Amended)   The method of claim 1, including the card counting the number of occasions on which it stores the flag in the non-ratified state between two transactions.

15/ (Amended)   The method of claim 13, in which means are provided to indicate that a given threshold has been exceeded by the count in the card, in particular means for inhibiting subsequent delivery of goods or service.

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